## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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were waged largely through printed materials or advertisements placed on radio and television. Today our disclosure laws require that if one produces a campaign flier, for example, that document must state on the face of the flier the name of the person or the committee who paid for the production of the flier so that the recipient of the flier knows who paid for the Similarly, newspaper, radio and TV ads must also message. disclose the name of the person or the committee who paid for the ad. However, in recent years political campaigns or campaigns for or against ballot initiatives have increasingly been waged using electronic communications, either by way of telemarketing phone calls or Internet on e-mail messages. And when these modes of communications are used our disclosure laws do not require the person transmitting the political message to identify the name of the person or committee who paid for the message. Thus the voter who receives the political message may have no way of knowing who paid for This can be very damaging, it seems to me, to the integrity of the political process when false or exaggerated statements are disseminated regarding a political candidate or a ballot measure. My amendment seeks to close the gap in our disclosure laws by requiring persons who transmit political messages relating to a candidate or political messages relating to ballot measures to identify the name of the person or the committee who is paying for the dissemination of that message. This reporting requirement is triggered when the person or committee has reached the spending threshold, which is in current law, I believe \$5,000 per candidate committees; for corporations and I believe, the threshold is much lower, \$250. individual citizens who transmit a political message telephone or e-mail would not be affected by this language. language of my amendment was introduced in the form of a bill that was heard and favorably reported out of the Government Committee earlier this year. And when the hearing was held on that bill, no one testified in opposition. The text of the bill was developed with the full cooperation of the Executive Director of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, who testified in a neutral capacity that day. intent of the amendment is merely to update our current disclosure requirements to conform the law to the manner in which political campaigns for office are now being waged.